

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scholl et al (US 5,663,226, cited on IDS dated 12/3/2004). Applicants respectfully traverse.

In response, Applicants refer the Examiner to the attached Supplemental Rule 132 Declaration, particularly the data in Tables A and B, which are revised to compare this invention to that of Scholl in the same molar amount.

As demonstrated by the Supplemental Rule 132 Declaration, the rubber compositions of the present invention have lower viscosities in the unvulcanized condition and provide excellent dispersion of silica, and when the presently claimed compositions are used for the tread members of tires, the tires exhibit excellent abrasion resistance.

In particular, Table A of the attached Declaration shows that Example 2 of present invention has much lower Mooney viscosity, much longer Mooney scorch time, much higher elongation at break and tensile at break and better abrasion resistance than Comparative Examples A', B' and C' which represent Examples 1, 4 and 5 of Scholl. In this regard, Example 2 demonstrates that the rubber compositions of the present invention maintain resilience and exhibit much better processability in unvulcanized rubber compositions and have excellent abrasion resistance in the tread member of a tire according to the present invention.

Moreover, Table B of the attached Declaration also shows that Examples 5, 6', 7' and 9' of the present invention have much lower Mooney viscosity, much longer Mooney scorch time, much higher elongation at break and tensile at break and better abrasion resistance than Comparative Examples D', E' and F' which represent Examples 2, 6 and 7 of Scholl. In this

regard, Examples 5, 6', 7' and 9' demonstrate that the rubber compositions of the present invention maintain resilience and exhibit much better processability in unvulcanized rubber compositions and have excellent abrasion resistance in the tread member of a tire according to the present invention.

In addition, as to Claim 13, R⁵ is restricted to a decylene group, phenylene group or methylphenylethylene group. In contrast, Scholl discloses an ethylene group, a hexylene group, a p-xylylene group and melamine-ring derivative residues. In this regard, Applicants kindly request the Examiner's specific response as to the patentability of Claim 13 over Scholl.

Accordingly, Scholl fails to render obvious the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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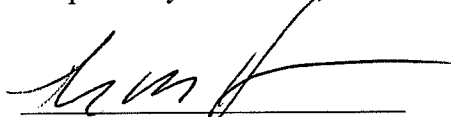
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